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LANGE & WILSON

Kathryn E. Landreth  
United States Attorney  
100 West Liberty Street, Suite 600  
Reno, Nevada 89510  
Telephone: (702)784-5439

Scott B. McElroy  
Alice E. Walker  
Greene, Meyer & McElroy  
1007 Pearl Street, Suite 220  
Boulder, Colorado 80302  
Telephone: (303)442-2021

John P. Lange  
United States Department of Justice  
Environment & Natural Resources Division  
Indian Resources Section  
999 18th Street, Suite 945  
Denver, Colorado 80202  
Telephone: (303) 312-7312

Kelly R. Chase  
P.O. Box 2800  
Minden, Nevada 89423  
Telephone: (702)782-5110

Attorneys for the Walker River Paiute Tribe

Attorneys for the United States of America

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEVADA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,  
  
Plaintiff,

) In Equity No. C-125-ECR  
) Subfile No. C-125-C  
)  
)

WALKER RIVER PAIUTE TRIBE,  
  
Plaintiff-Intervenor,

) **JOINT RESPONSE AND POINTS OF**  
) **AUTHORITIES OF THE UNITED STATES OF**  
) **AMERICA AND THE WALKER RIVER**  
) **PAIUTE TRIBE TO MINERAL COUNTY'S**  
) **MOTION FOR ORDER OF PUBLICATION**  
) **AND AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE**

vs.

WALKER RIVER IRRIGATION  
DISTRICT, et al.,  
  
Defendants.

vs.

MINERAL COUNTY,

Proposed Plaintiff-  
Intervenor,

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INTRODUCTION

On October 25, 1994 - over three years ago - Mineral County filed a motion to intervene in this case. Mineral County has been attempting to complete service of process since that time. The question before the Court today is whether Mineral County should be allowed to complete service of process by publication, given the efforts it has made to accomplish service. As the Court is aware, there have been a number of status conferences held on this matter over the last several months. The most recent status conference was held on April 14, 1998.

THE COURT SHOULD PERMIT MINERAL COUNTY TO COMPLETE SERVICE OF

PROCESS BY PUBLICATION

On April 21, 1998, in accordance with the Court's Order of April 14, 1998, Mineral County filed a motion for an Order of Publication pursuant to Rule 4(e) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. By its motion Mineral County seeks to complete its service of process by publication of a Notice in Lieu of Summons "for all unidentified parties who may be holders of water rights in the Walker River...." Mineral County contends that the Court should permit publication but appears also to argue that publication may not be necessary if the Court finds that the due diligence of Mineral County to complete personal service to date has been sufficiently carried out so as not to require any more effort to complete service, whether by publication or otherwise. *SEE, MINERAL COUNTY'S MOTION FOR ORDER OF PUBLICATION, AT 2 (APRIL 21, 1998).*

The United States and the Walker River Paiute Tribe, for the reasons set forth below, have no objection to the Court permitting completion of service by publication. We do not believe, however, that the Court should conclude that no further service of any kind is in order. Service by publication will ensure that any water users who may have a claim to the waters of the Walker River, but have not for some reason been served, will be placed on notice of Mineral

1 County's intentions to intervene in this suit.

2 We now turn to the rules relevant to service of process in this case. Rule 4(e), Fed. R.  
3 Civ. P., in pertinent part, provides that service on individuals may be effected:

4 pursuant to the law of the state in which the district court is  
5 located, or in which service is effected, for the service of a  
6 summons upon the defendant in an action brought in the courts of  
7 general jurisdiction of the State ...."

8 In this regard, Rule 4(e)(1) of the Nevada Rules of Civil Procedure allows for service by  
9 publication under circumstances where a defendant, "resides out of the state or has departed from  
10 the state, or cannot after due diligence be found within the state, or conceals himself to avoid the  
11 service of summons..."

12 Thus, the question presented is whether Mineral County has exercised due diligence in its  
13 efforts to complete service and whether the Court should permit the service to be completed by  
14 publication.  
15

16 In the Affidavit of Treva J. Hearne, attached to Mineral County's motion, the affiant  
17 states that Mineral County "sent request for waivers of service to 1107 persons" and that 122  
18 were "returned signed." *AFFIDAVIT, PARAGRAPHS 3,4 AT 3*. The affiant further states that Mineral  
19 County has "expended over \$110,000.00" and expended far in excess of 1000 hours of time,  
20 including volunteer time, and "served or attempted service on over 1100 persons and entities."  
21 *AFFIDAVIT, PARAGRAPH 12, AT 6*. The affiant goes on throughout the affidavit to describe in  
22 considerable detail the leviathan efforts Mineral County has expended to complete service.  
23

24 We have no reason to dispute the veracity of the efforts Mineral County describes here in  
25 attempting to complete its service of process. It would appear that Mineral County has exercised  
26 due diligence and that the Court should permit Mineral County to complete the service by  
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1 publication. We note that Mineral County has been attempting to complete service in this case  
2 for more that three years. As part of that effort, Mineral County, in the past, requested the Court  
3 to allow it to complete service by publication. The Court initially denied that request by Minute  
4 Order, dated March 22, 1996. Mineral County appealed the denial to the Ninth Circuit.  
5 Although the appeal was dismissed for lack of jurisdiction, the Ninth Circuit went out of its way  
6 to note that Mineral County's intervention attempt appeared to be a "particularly attractive  
7 candidate for service by publication at the appropriate time." United States v. Walker River Irr.  
8 Dist., No. 96-15885(9th Cir. Feb.12, 1997).  
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10  
11 CONCLUSION

12 As set forth in the Affidavit of Treva J. Hearne, Mineral County has expended a great  
13 deal of money, time , and effort to complete the service since the Ninth Circuit made its  
14 observation. We believe it is now time to allow Mineral County to complete service by  
15 publication.  
16

17 DATED the 27th day of April, 1998.

18 Respectfully submitted,

19 Kathryn E. Landreth  
20 United States Attorney  
21 100 Est Liberty St., Suite 600  
22 Reno, Nevada 89509

23 John P. Lange  
24 United States Department Of Justice  
25 Environment & Natural Resources Division  
26 Indian Resources Section  
27 999 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 945  
28 Denver, Colorado 80202

By:

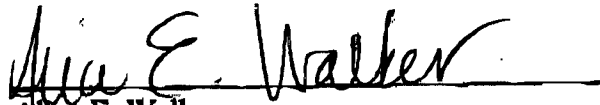
  
John P. Lange

1 Attorneys for the United States of America

2  
3 Scott B. McElroy  
4 Alice E. Walker  
5 Greene, Meyer & McElroy, P.C.  
6 1007 Pearl Street, Suite 220  
7 Boulder, Colorado 80302

8 Kelly R. Chase  
9 P.O. Box 2800  
10 Minden, Nevada 89423

11 By:

12   
13 Alice E. Walker

14 Attorneys for the Walker River Paiute Tribe  
15  
16  
17  
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this 27th day of April 1997, served a true copy of the foregoing **JOINT RESPONSE AND POINTS OF AUTHORITIES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE WALKER RIVER PAIUTE TRIBE TO MINERAL COUNTY'S MOTION FOR ORDER OF PUBLICATION AND AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE** by placing same in the U. S. mails, postage prepaid, addressed as follows:

Shirley A. Smith, Esq.  
Asst. U. S. Attorney  
100 W. Liberty St., Suite 600  
Reno, NV 89501-1930

Jim Weishaupt  
Walker River Irrigation District  
P. O. Box 820  
Yerington, NV 89447

James T. Markle  
State Water Res. Control Bd.  
P. O. Box 100  
Sacramento, CA 94814

John Kramer  
Department of Water Resources  
1416 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Evan Beavers  
Beavers & Young  
1616 Highway 395  
Minden, Nevada 89423

Ross E. De Lipkau  
P. O. Box 2790  
Reno, NV 89505

Gary Stone  
290 South Arlington  
Reno, NV 89510

Gordon H. DePaoli, Esq.  
Dale E. Ferguson  
Woodburn & Wedge  
P. O. Box 2311  
Reno, NV 89505

Richard R. Greenfield, Esq.  
Field Solicitor's Office  
Department of the Interior  
Two N. Central Ave., Suite 500  
Phoenix, AZ 85004

Western Nevada Agency  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
1677 Hot Springs Road  
Carson City, CA 89706

R. Michael Turnipseed, P.E.  
Division of Water Resources  
State of Nevada  
123 West Nye Lane  
Carson City, NV 89710

Scott McElroy, Esq.  
Alice E. Walker  
Greene, Meyer & McElroy  
1007 Pearl Street, No. 220  
Boulder, CO 80302

John Davis, Esq.  
P. O. Box 1646  
Tonopah, NV 89049

1 Roger Johnson  
2 Water Resources Control Bd.  
3 State of California  
4 P. O. Box 2000  
5 Sacramento, CA 95810

6 Roger Bezayiff  
7 Water Master  
8 U.S. Bd. Water Commissioners  
9 P. O. Box 853  
10 Yerington, NV 89447

11 Linda A. Bowman, Esq.  
12 Bowman & Robinson  
13 499 W. Plumb Lane, Ste. 4  
14 Reno, NV 89509

15 Mary Hackenbracht, Esq.  
16 Department of Justice  
17 State of California  
18 2101 Webster St., 12th Floor  
19 Oakland, CA 94612-3049

20 Marta Adams, Esq.  
21 Deputy Attorney General  
22 State of Nevada  
23 100 North Carson Street  
24 Carson City, Nevada 89710

25 George N. Benesch, Esq.  
26 210 Marsh Avenue, Suite 105  
27 Post Office Box 3498  
28 Reno, Nevada 89509

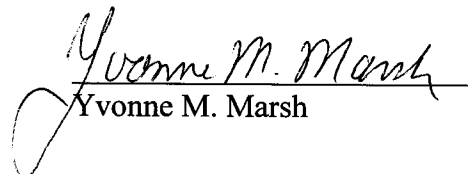
David E. Moser, Esq.  
McCutchen, Doyle, Brown & Enerson  
Three Embarcadero Center  
San Francisco, CA 94111

James Spoo  
Treva J. Hearne  
Zeh, Polaha, Spoo & Hearne  
575 Forest Street,  
Reno, Nevada 89509

Richard E. Olsen, Jr.  
Claassen and Olson  
P.O. Box 2101  
Carson City, NV 89702

Bill Hvidsten  
De Cuir & Somach  
400 Capitol Mall, Suite 1900  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Michael W. Neville  
California Attorney General Office  
50 Fremont Street, Suite 300  
San Francisco, CA 94105-2239

  
Yvonne M. Marsh